

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED:**

Section 1. Establishment and Structure.

The Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership Office (the “APNEP Office”) is hereby established to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the CCMP, and the APNEP mission. The APNEP Office shall serve as a conduit for information, collaborations, and coordination among the state and federal agencies, local governments, tribes, academia, and the public. The Office will be located in the Offices of the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (“DENR” or the “Department”). The Department shall be responsible for administrative and fiscal management of the APNEP Office as the federal grant recipient.

Section 2. Advisory Bodies.

The following advisory bodies shall be established to support the implementation of the CCMP and to assist the APNEP Office: a Policy Board, an Implementation Committee, and a Science and Technical Advisory Committee. The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in consultation with the Director of the APNEP Office, shall appoint the initial membership of the advisory bodies and, to the greatest extent possible, shall seek to ensure geographic, demographic and social balance, and willingness to serve. Unless otherwise authorized by the Governor or the Governor’s designee, advisory bodies shall have no authority other than to serve in an advisory capacity as provided herein.

A. Policy Board

1. Purpose

The Policy Board shall work with the APNEP Office and other partners to advise, support, evaluate, update, advocate for, and guide CCMP implementation. The Policy Board is the primary guidance body of the APNEP Office.

2. Membership

a. The membership of the Policy Board shall include the following voting members:

- 1) The Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, or designee;
- 2) Two members of the Implementation Committee;
- 3) Two members of the Science and Technical Advisory Committee;
- 4) A representative of a local or regional council of governments;
- 5) A representative of a local, state, or national conservation organization; and
- 6) Two at-large members.